

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-36 (cancelled).

37 (previously presented). A method of administering an oligonucleotide to a mammal, the method comprising:

administering to the alimentary canal of the mammal a composition comprising an oligonucleotide, said oligonucleotide having at least one internucleoside linkage that is a methylene (methylimino) backbone modification.

38 (previously presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide has at least one phosphodiester linkage.

39 (previously presented). The method of claim 37, wherein the oligonucleotide has alternating methylene(methylimino) and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages.

40 (currently amended). A method of administering an oligonucleotide to a mammal, the method comprising administering to the alimentary canal of the mammal a composition comprising an oligonucleotide, said oligonucleotide having at least one internucleoside linkage that is a methylene(methylimino) backbone modification, whereby a percent bioavailability of at least about 11.5% of that achieved via ~~is achieved in the mammal relative to intravenous administration~~ is achieved.

41 (previously presented). The method of claim 40, wherein the oligonucleotide has at least one phosphodiester linkage.

42 (previously presented). The method of claim 40, wherein the oligonucleotide has alternating methylene(methylimino) and phosphodiester internucleoside linkages.

43-51 (canceled).